



**SECRETARY'S UPDATE** – Mr. McNary suggested the Board of Health look at doing a website to help work on getting the word out about the Board of Health to the public. He suggested working with the County's OCIS Department to see if it is feasible. Dr. Lungay stated this has been attempted in the past and it didn't work, they had virtually no traffic on the website. Mr.

McNary believes that there might be more reception with the aftereffects of COVID-19. Dr. Lungay stated the previous member was Bob Miller, RN, Esq., who worked on the website project. Mr. McNary proposed a motion to investigate the building of a website including funding that would include who the Board of Health is & what they do. Dr. Santiago stated the community doesn't know what the Board of Health is and through a interactive website, you can have bidirectional conversation with the community. There could be pod casts, health information, and discussion topics by topic or maybe municipality. Dr. Lungay said the last time there were some issues with the Legislature and the Health Department complaining about what they were doing. Ms. Smith stated that most communication seen is put out by Dutchess County or Dept. of Behavioral & Community Health. Maybe it would be good to look to see what other Board of Health's are doing.

Mr. McNary also suggested that the board work on Maternal Health by working with Vassar Hospital and seeing how we can work with them to assist with getting individuals linked to services. Dr. Nelson-Perron is interested in this topic, she has found it difficult to find services to refer patients to. Ms. Smith stated that there are some data points, but the areas are breastfeeding, mortality, adverse events. She could prepare something for the May meeting. Dr. Santiago referred to some Harvard students that were working on a project in the area that determined that we are resources rich but systems poor. We have many resources available to community members, but we need to do a better job of connecting those resources to them.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT** – on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 – 3pm DBCH will be hosting a Health Fair at the JCPenney location at the Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall. It would be great if the Board of Health could participate and have a booth. There will be indoor and outdoor attractions including touch a truck and Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue, performance and interactive displays featuring health positive activities. We hope to have some students from the CIA come and do healthy food demonstrations and participants will get a passport to stamp as they visit booths throughout the health fair to then be entered into some raffle baskets. Maybe offering a short 1 – 3 question survey of the participants, you could use a QR code that would make it easy for people to use their smart phones to complete the survey.

Dr. Santiago reviewed a DBCH Organizational Chart that showed many of the programs and services that DBCH has to offer the community. We are getting ready to restart the Sexual Health Clinic that has been closed due to the COVID response. We excited to be filling the Director of Performance Management & Data Analytics to get a handle on data including actionable and impactful to our staff on the ground. We have merged our Emergency Preparedness staff with the Department of Emergency Response for a more complete Dutchess County Emergency Preparedness response. Mr. McNary asked how many staff we have on hand and Mr. Ruggiero reported there are roughly 80 in Behavioral Health and 130 in Community Health. Mr. McNary also inquired about the budget for the upcoming year and Mr. Ruggiero stated that it would probably stay flat for this coming year or maybe a little increase. Mr. McNary pointed out that we spend 3.5 billion on health care and 80 million on public health.

Mr. Ruggiero then mentioned that with a grant from Assemblywoman Didi Barrett and county funds, we were able to purchase a mobile RV that will have an exam room & space to meet with

patients to reach our northern and eastern communities. The RV should be delivered by the end of the year and will be stored at the Dutchess County Airport.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There was a discussion on the Mental Hygiene Board (MHB) and how they operate. The MHB has 4 subcommittees (Adult, Children & Youth, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Disorder) and each subcommittee meets on a regular basis. Members of the MHB must participate on one of the Subcommittees and each subcommittee runs an annual public forum to get feedback from the community regarding services and programs. Some of the subcommittees also host yearly conferences, the Children & Youth Subcommittee hosts the Building Bridges Conference each year for Dutchess County School personnel including psychologist, social workers, counselors, etc. Each subcommittee also has a DBCH Staff Liaison along with outside community partner members. The Board of Health members requested to be invited to the next MHB meeting which is the third Monday of the month at 12 noon.

**ANTI-OBESITY** – We need a new chair for this committee. Previously this committee held a conference for doctors and nurses who are working in the community. Is this the right way to approach this topic? Dr. Santiago suggested maybe the Board of Health suggest every restaurant in Dutchess County put the calorie count on their menu. There might be more effective ways to bring about education regarding obesity to the members of our community.

**HEALTH DISPARITIES** – No report, new members Dr. Fil and Dr. Nelson-Perron accepted the co-chair of this committee.

**SANITARY CODE** – Marie Brule will be presenting at the May meeting, proposed changes to the Daycare and ATUPA sections of the Sanitary Code.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT** – No report

### **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

**COVID** – Ms. Smith, DBCH Epidemiologist, gave an updated report of COVID-19. There has been a 37% increase in case rates in April. This includes lab reported positive cases and those self-reported at home tests. These numbers are underestimated to the actual cases in the community but there are no clusters to report. Last weeks samples, random selection from Dutchess County Labs, showed 90% of the cases were the BA.2 variant. Vaccinations have become pretty stagnant, there was a slight increase in boosters but the County has not done any further push for vaccination. Dr. Santiago reported that she tried to engage providers through the Dutchess County Medical Society and was not as successful as she wanted. There seems to be hesitancy to designating some of their practice to administer the vaccine and the observation time, others have been met with vitriol when attempting to have conversations with parents regarding vaccine, and some practices just don't give immunizations. We are about equal with other counties, maybe a little better than some rural counties in NY.

**Election of Officers** – Mr. McNary made a motion to nominate Mr. Nelson for Recording Secretary and Dr. Lungay seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Membership** – James Grigg, City of Beacon representative, resigned his position on the Board of Health effective April 20, 2022. We will need to reach out to the Mayor of Beacon to seek a replacement. Some suggestions were Christine Forman or Alexander Cohen. Mr. Ruggiero will reach out to the Mayor.

**Public Health Partnership Awards 2022** – Thank you to Mr. McNary and Mr. Nelson for presenting the Public Health Partnership Awards to Joe Ryan, Medical Reserve Corp Coordinator, and Nasir Mahmood and Kathleen Bartles from the Pine Plains Pandemic Initiative, at the Legislative Committee meeting on April 7, 2022, during National Public Health Week.

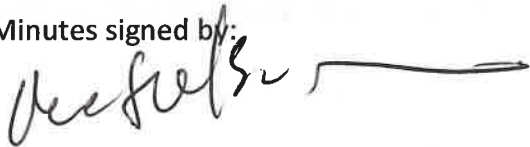
**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Mr. McNary made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Nelson seconded, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Thursday, May 19, 2022**

**2022 EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

Dr. Lobsang T. Lungay – President  
David McNary – Vice President  
Marc Nelson – Secretary

Minutes signed by:



Marc Nelson  
Secretary of the Board of Health



Wendy Cady  
Recording Secretary